

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
June 12, 2002

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: NPDES PERMIT: WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR S & S FARMS SWINE RAISING FACILITY, SAN DIEGO COUNTY (TENTATIVE ORDER NO. R9-2002-0067, NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0109371) (*Mike Corry*)

PURPOSE: To hold a public hearing to obtain information from interested parties regarding the tentative NPDES permit for the discharge of liquid and solid waste from S & S Farms Swine Raising Facility.

PUBLIC NOTICE: A newspaper notice was published in the San Diego Union-Tribune on May 10, 2002. Copies of the Tentative Order and Fact Sheet were sent by certified mail to the discharger and interested parties on May 8, 2002. Copies were made available for public review at the Regional Board office on May 10, 2002. These actions served as the 30-day official public notification for this action, as required by Title 40, section 124.10 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

DISCUSSION: S & S Farms Swine Raising Facility is a proposed confined animal feeding operation located at 1650 Warnock Drive, near Ramona, California (see attached map).

A maximum of 1500 total swine will be housed at the facility until being sold to biomedical firms for research. Liquid and solid waste produced by the swine, intermittent sprinkler water, and facility wash water is contained in collection pits containing fresh water. The collection pits will drain to the treatment lagoon system onsite approximately every seven days. The treatment lagoon system is composed of two lined ponds. Bacteria in the ponds break down the organic waste into methane gas and carbon dioxide. Pond volumes will be controlled by evaporation. During the dry season, the addition of fresh water may be required to maintain minimum pond volumes. The Fact Sheet describes the facility in greater detail.

Water quality issues associated with the facility include the potential contribution of nitrates and total dissolved solids to surface and ground water. An unnamed stream is located approximately 300 feet to the north of the treatment pond system.

A groundwater aquifer is located approximately four feet below the bottom of the treatment lagoon system. Due to the proximity of the treatment ponds to existing surface and groundwater, and pursuant to 40 CFR 122.23(c) and the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan), the Regional Board has determined that the proposed facility constitutes a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) subject to an NPDES Permit.

To reduce the potential for impacts to surface and ground water, discharges of facility liquid and solid wastes to surface and ground water and land application of the wastes are prohibited. The treatment lagoon system was constructed with a two-foot thick soil-polymer liner and compacted to reduce permeability. A minimum two-foot freeboard is required to be maintained in the ponds at all times to protect against overflow in the event of a large storm event. The discharger is required to provide containment for all precipitation from a 25-year 24-hour storm and to protect the facility from flooding or overflow due to a 100-year peak storm. Groundwater wells will be constructed upgradient and downgradient of the ponds to monitor nitrate and total dissolved solids concentrations. Monitoring will confirm the treatment system is constructed properly and being maintained effectively.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have reviewed the design and location of the facility and have advised the Regional Board that the design of the facility would result in compliance with the requirements of the tentative Order. The facility owners have been working actively with the NRCS to implement appropriate strategies for proper management of the facility. The design and construction engineers for the project have certified the integrity of the treatment lagoon and its liner. A minimum level of fresh water is required in the lagoon system to reduce potential for noxious odors.

As of May 30, 2002 written comments have been received from four people (copies attached) in support of the tentative Order.

LEGAL CONCERNS:

None

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:

1. Tentative Order No. R9-2002-0067, Draft NPDES Permit No. CA0109371
2. Tentative Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R9-2002-0067
3. Fact Sheet for tentative Order No. R9-20002-0067
4. Transmittal Letter dated May 8, 2002
5. Published Public Notice Document dated May 10, 2002
6. Location Map
7. Comment Letters (4)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt tentative Order No. R9-2002-0067.